

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



June 26 – July 9, 2016

Sunday, June 26

9:30 AM Program – “The Many Hats of a Ranger” The most recognizable part of the National Park Service Ranger’s uniform is the iconic “Flat Hat.” But this is not the only hat a Ranger wears! Join Ranger M. Lavender for a show-and-tell of the many different hats a Ranger wears and the exciting jobs they perform. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

Thursday, June 30

10:30 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye” You don’t need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters, and nebulae in the winter sky, weather permitting. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Friday, July 1

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Strategies for Survival” Our local environment may seem a less than ideal place to call home, but organisms – from ants to bears, even lichens – have developed creative ways to survive. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn about nature’s perspective on the secrets to survival. Meet at the Window View trailhead in the Chisos Basin. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. .3 mile walk. 1 hour.

Saturday, July 2

9:30 AM Program – “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don’t let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Sunday, July 3

9:30 AM Program – “Bear Country” Whether you are staying at the Lodge, camping, or hiking in the Chisos Mountains or foothills you are in *Bear Country*. Join Ranger M. Lavender to learn more about how to enjoy Bear Country safely and agreeably with the unique population of Mexican Black Bears that make Big Bend home. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. 45 minutes.

Monday, July 4 Happy Independence Day!

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” Work got you stressed? Have elevated blood pressure? Looking to shed that extra pound? Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at why some doctors are prescribing parks to patients, and how a visit to Big Bend can make you physically and emotionally healthier. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water and wear hiking shoes. 1 mile walk. 1 hour.

Tuesday, July 5

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike on. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

Friday, July 8

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Strategies for Survival” Our local environment may seem a less than ideal place to call home, but organisms – from ants to bears, even lichens – have developed creative ways to survive. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn about nature’s perspective on the secrets to survival. Meet at the Window View trailhead in the Chisos Basin. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1/3 mile walk. 1 hour.

8:15 PM Photography Program – “You’re Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...” Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you’re attempting to capture may not be what you think it is... Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the Window View trailhead in the Chisos Basin. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:

The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in comfort with our 22-minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.